



6530.0 - Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 2009-10

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How are Australians spending their money?

Half the money that Australian households spend on goods and services goes on housing, food and transport, according to a major survey released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The latest Household Expenditure Survey (HES) showed the average Australian household spent \$1,236 per week on goods and services in 2009–10, an increase of 38% (\$343 per week) from the previous 2003–04 survey. In contrast, prices as measured by the consumer price index (CPI) increased by 19%, indicating a rise in real living standards over the five years.

The largest increases in average weekly household expenditure since 2003–04 were:

- current housing costs (selected dwelling), up \$80 (55%), due in part to increased mortgage interest payments, up \$35 (75%) and increased rent payments, up \$32 (68%)
- food and non-alcoholic beverages, up \$51 (34%)
- recreation, up \$47 (41%)
- miscellaneous goods and services, up \$37 (46%), partly due to increased spending on education fees for primary and secondary schools, up \$10 (107%).

The level of weekly expenditure varied across states and territories. Households in the Australian Capital Territory (\$1,536) and the Northern Territory (\$1,500) recorded the highest average weekly expenditures. The lowest average weekly expenditures were in South Australia (\$1,044) and Tasmania (\$1,064). The average weekly expenditure of households located in capital cities was \$1,310, compared with \$1,107 in areas outside of capital cities.

Couple family households with dependent children had much higher average weekly expenditure on goods and services (\$1,748) than the national average. Households which were lone persons aged 65 years or over (\$446), had much lower weekly expenditure on average.

Further information is available in *Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 2009-10* (cat. no. 6530.0)

Media notes

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